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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

January 31, 2013

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Program Manager 

FROM: James Owen, Engineer 

RE: Update to Surface Facilities/Operation Plan, Energy West Mining Company, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/0018, Task ID #4242

SUMMARY:

On January 7, 2013, the Utah Division of Oil Gas & Mining received an application for an amendment to the Mining & Reclamation Plan (MRP) of the Deer Creek mine. The application seeks approval to update Volume 5, Plate 3-9 to include all areas of disturbance. Additional changes include modifications to Volume 2, Part 3, Operation Plan, which required an update to numerous informational items.

This memo addresses the application's compliance with the administrative (R645-301-100), engineering (R645-301-500) and bonding (R645-301-800) sections of the Utah Coal Mining Rules. Contents and information provided are sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

This application does not include construction of any new surface facilities or modification of any current surface facilities that are listed in Table 6 or Part 3 of Volume 2 of the MRP. The list and associated descriptions of these facilities remain unchanged.

Surface facilities are depicted on Plate 3-9, Deer Creek Mine Surface Facilities Map, and remain unchanged. However, Plate 3-9 was modified to include all areas of disturbance, and now includes maps 1 through 4.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

Analysis:

The need for changes to Plate 3-9 was triggered by the redesign of the drainage control of the undisturbed runoff north of the C2 beltline. Runoff from this area was previously controlled through sediment control structures. Runoff of the undisturbed area above the beltline has been redesigned to bypass through the disturbed area (diverted under the disturbed areas through culverts) directly into Deer Creek without treatment. The operator states that the new design greatly reduces the amount of maintenance that is needed for drainage control in the area.

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ASCA areas on Plate 3-9 were also redefined to better illustrate the areas of alternate control. Table 4 in Volume 2, Part 3 was amended to update the acreage of all ASCA areas. The ASCA areas defined in Plate 3-9 were previously described and depicted on Plate 1-4, Surface Yard & Overland Conveyor Disturbed Area Boundary. Plate 1-4 will remain unchanged, however, the detailed depiction of ASCA's is now included in the new and updated version of Plate 3-9.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

The currently approved version of Plate 3-9, Deer Creek Mine Surface Facilities Map, only includes disturbed areas from the portals to the tipple. However, the disturbed areas continue down to the Power Plant's coal storage area. Plate 3-9 was modified and now includes 4 maps rather than 1. The 3 additional maps include details from the tipple to the Power Plant's coal receiving building (which is not a part of the Deer Creek permit).

All of the submitted maps have been stamped but not signed and dated. Correctly certified versions of the maps will be submitted upon receipt of approval.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

Analysis:

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This application does not include construction of any new surface facilities or modification of any current surface facilities that are listed in Table 6 or Part 3 of Volume 2 of the MRP. The list and associated descriptions of these facilities remain unchanged.

The surface facilities listed and accounted for in the bond calculation spreadsheet is updated and adequate. This amendment calls for no changes or adjustment to the bond.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval is recommended at this time.

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